

COMMUNITY SERVICE OPTION - SECTION 1108 (G) OF TEA-21

What types of projects are suitable, and why should I consider this option?

To take advantage of this option, you should be able to demonstrate the following:

- The project will effectively utilize volunteers to make a positive impact on the community.
- There is a need, and resources for the project are not readily available through some other source.

Participants are Washington State residents, age 18 and over. With the community service option, you will achieve at least two benefits: 1). The community will have the tangible accomplishments of the project, and 2). Your project will provide young adults from throughout the state with valuable work experience and training. All scholarships are paid through the AmeriCorps National Service Trust Fund.

What criteria must projects using the community service option meet?

The project must:

- Engage participants in meaningful and important tasks
- Address the needs of the community
- Provide participant development and training
- Encourage and promote community involvement
- Build new or expand community partnerships
- Encourage participants to reflect on their learning path and community contributions.

Participant Benefits?

Washington Service Corps (WSC) administers the largest corps in the state of Washington. Through participation in the WSC, each participant will:

- Receive a monthly stipend of \$740 and medical insurance coverage
- Upon successful completion, either a \$2,363 or \$4,725 scholarship (based on hours of service) to be used to attend college or a vocational institution, or to pay back qualified student loans.
- Receive forbearance on student loans while enrolled in the program, if qualified.
- Be challenged and receive work exposure in areas of interest.

Term of Service Options for Each Project?

Full and part-time options exist and can be discussed during project development. Key points include:

- The standard local match of 13.5% is still required
- Funds can be used for both labor and non-labor costs
- Only Transportation Enhancement eligible activities can be funded.

How do I go about developing a project with a community service component?

Washington State Department of Transportation's Highways & Local Programs Service Center and Employment Security Department's Washington Service Corps will work with applicants to:

- Define the project and develop the application
- Assist with cost estimating related to sponsoring community service participants, and incorporating a successful service component into an Enhancement project.

If interested, make contacts immediately! WSC must work with the Washington State Commission for National and Community Service to submit grant applications to the Corporation for National Service. Contact Eugene Suzaka, (360) 438-4072 or Debbie Schuffenhauer, (360) 438-4145, of the Washington Service Corps program.